

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are pending in the present application; all claims have been rejected in the present Office Action. Claims 1-2 and 5-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0050977 (Gerszber) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,870,683 (Wells) and Claims 3-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gerszber.

Claims 1, 3 and 5 have been amended.

Gerszber describes a video enabled answering machine including customized video announcement messages, caller ID based video announcement messages, and time based video announcement messages to *greet the caller*, not to alert the user of the system – the *called* party – of an occasion date. Gerszber does not actively alert the user of its system of any date, let alone a specific occasion date. It is merely an answering machine that allows different greetings for the *caller*, depending on the time and date.

In response to the arguments made in the previous amendment, the Examiner states that Gerszber does teach “determining whether today is a registered occasion date” and “checking whether today is a registered occasion date” as recited in claims 1 and 5, respectively, because Gerszber allows a user to select a greeting based on the time and date.

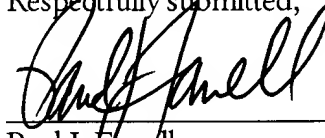
The Examiner, however, misses the difference that Gerszber provides an answering machine *greeting* to the *calling* party. The present invention provides a specific, predetermined image or *ring tone* for the *called* party to remind the *called party* of a specific occasion.

As amended, claim 1 recites a method of alerting the user of the phone – the *called party* – of an occasion date. A call is accepted on a phone, the call intended for a user. It is determined whether today is a registered occasion date. A first image is displayed on the phone for the user. If today is a registered occasion date, the first image is changed to remind the user, whom the call was intended for – the *called party* – of the occasion date. Claim 3 works the same way with a ring tone, and claim 5, with both an image and a ring tone.

Accordingly, Claims 1, 3 and 5 are believed allowable over the cited references. Claims 2, 4 and 6 are also believed to be allowable based on their dependency from allowable base claims 1, 3, and 5, respectively.

Should the Examiner feel that a telephone conference or personal interview would facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, the Examiner may contact Applicant's attorney at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul J. Farrell", is written over a horizontal line.

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